

Supplementary Table I: Patient-relevant treatment goals and domains of the PBI

Reducing physical impairments
• To be free of pain
• To be free of itching
• To no longer have a burning sensation on the skin
• To be healed of all skin alterations
• To be able to sleep better
Reducing psychological impairments
• To feel less depressed
• To gain in joy of living
• To be able to lead a normal everyday life
• To be more capable in daily life
• To be able to engage in normal leisure activities
Reducing social impairments
• To be less a burden to relative and friends
• To be able to lead a normal working life
• To be able to have more contact with other people
• To dare to show oneself more
• To be less burdened in partnership
• To be able to have a normal sex life
Reducing impairments due to therapy
• To be less dependent on doctor and clinic visits
• To have to spend less time with daily care
• To have fewer out-of-pocket treatment costs
• To experience fewer side-effects
Having confidence in healing
• To have no fear that the disease will progress
• To find a clear diagnosis and therapy
• To have confidence in therapy
Not attributed to subscales
• To regain control of the disease
• To get better skin quickly

Supplementary Table SII. Treatment expectations (PNQ) by sex. Mean scores on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = not important at all, 5 = very important). Percentages calculated excluding missing values and responses of “does not apply to me”. Sex differences assessed using Mann-Whitney U test with Bonferroni correction. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; ns = not significant.

Treatment Expectation	Male mean $\pm$ SD (n)	Female Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	p – value
Pain-free	4.19 $\pm$ 1.18 (170)	4.51 $\pm$ 0.92 (176)	0.034
No itching	4.40 $\pm$ 1.03 (191)	4.66 $\pm$ 0.79 (184)	0.205
No burning	4.16 $\pm$ 1.20 (160)	4.53 $\pm$ 0.98 (154)	0.016*
Healed skin	4.28 $\pm$ 1.07 (205)	4.59 $\pm$ 0.82 (211)	0.032*
Better sleep	3.96 $\pm$ 1.22 (157)	4.23 $\pm$ 1.19 (149)	0.357
Less depressed	3.70 $\pm$ 1.31 (167)	4.24 $\pm$ 1.06 (160)	0.002**
More joy in life	4.07 $\pm$ 1.22 (182)	4.45 $\pm$ 0.94 (174)	0.022*
No fear of progression	4.00 $\pm$ 1.20 (202)	4.32 $\pm$ 1.08 (199)	0.031
Normal daily life	4.27 $\pm$ 1.02 (190)	4.49 $\pm$ 0.92 (192)	0.209
More productive	3.80 $\pm$ 1.29 (166)	4.26 $\pm$ 1.06 (163)	0.011*
Less burden on family	3.60 $\pm$ 1.41 (159)	4.16 $\pm$ 1.20 (154)	0.005
Normal leisure	3.99 $\pm$ 1.20 (187)	4.30 $\pm$ 1.08 (178)	0.064
Normal work life	3.83 $\pm$ 1.31 (144)	4.27 $\pm$ 1.19 (124)	0.015*
More social contacts	3.60 $\pm$ 1.35 (152)	3.99 $\pm$ 1.30 (148)	0.076
Show myself more	3.88 $\pm$ 1.29 (169)	4.29 $\pm$ 1.05 (168)	0.033*
Less burden in relationship	3.70 $\pm$ 1.39 (155)	4.12 $\pm$ 1.21 (138)	0.189
Normal sex life	3.70 $\pm$ 1.42 (147)	4.02 $\pm$ 1.25 (127)	1.0
Fewer doctor visits	3.93 $\pm$ 1.22 (147)	4.39 $\pm$ 0.94 (202)	0.001***
Less treatment time	3.80 $\pm$ 1.33 (199)	4.14 $\pm$ 1.09 (180)	0.447
Lower treatment costs	3.21 $\pm$ 1.47 (170)	3.96 $\pm$ 1.17 (164)	< 0.001***
Fewer side effects	3.66 $\pm$ 1.42 (181)	4.28 $\pm$ 1.06 (178)	0.001
Clear diagnosis	4.45 $\pm$ 0.96 (212)	4.65 $\pm$ 0.83 (207)	0.191
Trust in therapy	4.59 $\pm$ 0.73 (214)	4.68 $\pm$ 0.75 (212)	1.0
Faster improvement	4.45 $\pm$ 0.82 (217)	4.68 $\pm$ 0.70 (212)	0.007**

Regain control	4.55 ± 0.80 (214)	4.75 ± 0.64 (211)	0.041*
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Supplementary Table SIII. Perceived treatment benefit (PBQ) by sex. Mean scores on a 5-point Likert scale (1 = not important at all, 5 = very important). Percentages calculated excluding missing values and responses of “does not apply to me”. Sex differences assessed using Mann-Whitney U test with Bonferroni correction. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; ns = not significant.

Treatment Expectation	Male mean $\pm$ SD (n)	Female Mean $\pm$ SD (n)	p – value
Pain-free	4.10 $\pm$ 1.20 (131)	3.85 $\pm$ 1.21 (114)	1.000
No itching	3.89 $\pm$ 1.20 (153)	3.73 $\pm$ 1.29 (126)	1.000
No burning	3.93 $\pm$ 1.27 (126)	3.72 $\pm$ 1.29 (105)	1.000
Healed skin	3.43 $\pm$ 1.28 (161)	3.19 $\pm$ 1.39 (150)	1.000
Better sleep	3.56 $\pm$ 1.39 (123)	3.44 $\pm$ 1.40 (100)	1.000
Less depressed	3.41 $\pm$ 1.31 (128)	3.55 $\pm$ 1.24 (109)	1.000
More joy in life	3.70 $\pm$ 1.37 (140)	3.62 $\pm$ 1.25 (123)	1.000
No fear of progression	3.56 $\pm$ 1.34 (149)	3.40 $\pm$ 1.32 (142)	1.000
Normal daily life	3.84 $\pm$ 1.27 (147)	3.68 $\pm$ 1.16 (132)	1.000
More productive	3.60 $\pm$ 1.31 (127)	3.60 $\pm$ 1.23 (112)	1.000
Less burden on family	3.56 $\pm$ 1.38 (118)	3.53 $\pm$ 1.39 (108)	1.000
Normal leisure	3.59 $\pm$ 1.34 (133)	3.52 $\pm$ 1.29 (114)	1.000
Normal work life	3.49 $\pm$ 1.41 (107)	3.54 $\pm$ 1.32 (82)	1.000
More social contacts	3.50 $\pm$ 1.34 (121)	3.51 $\pm$ 1.31 (98)	1.000
Show myself more	3.64 $\pm$ 1.33 (127)	3.46 $\pm$ 1.33 (119)	1.000
Less burden in relationship	3.56 $\pm$ 1.46 (108)	3.56 $\pm$ 1.29 (94)	1.000
Normal sex life	3.40 $\pm$ 1.50 (106)	3.41 $\pm$ 1.35 (82)	1.000
Fewer doctor visits	3.33 $\pm$ 1.46 (150)	3.32 $\pm$ 1.42 (145)	1.000
Less treatment time	3.43 $\pm$ 1.40 (154)	3.31 $\pm$ 1.38 (131)	1.000
Lower treatment costs	3.13 $\pm$ 1.54 (131)	3.35 $\pm$ 1.40 (110)	1.000
Fewer side effects	3.45 $\pm$ 1.45 (139)	3.43 $\pm$ 1.40 (129)	1.000
Clear diagnosis	3.89 $\pm$ 1.34 (161)	3.91 $\pm$ 1.32 (142)	1.000
Trust in therapy	4.09 $\pm$ 1.12 (163)	3.90 $\pm$ 1.27 (147)	1.000
Faster improvement	3.86 $\pm$ 1.22 (167)	3.77 $\pm$ 1.34 (145)	1.000
Regain control	3.83 $\pm$ 1.26 (166)	3.67 $\pm$ 1.38 (150)	1.000

Supplementary Table SIV. Gap between treatment expectations and perceived treatment benefit by sex. The gap score was calculated as the difference between the mean Patient Needs Questionnaire (PNQ) score (expectation) and the mean Patient Benefit Questionnaire (PBQ) score (perceived treatment benefit): $\text{Gap} = W - N$. A positive gap indicates that expectations exceeded perceived treatment benefit. Analysis restricted to patients with valid responses on both PNQ and PBQ for the respective item. Statistical significance assessed using the Wilcoxon signed-rank test for paired samples with Bonferroni correction. * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$; ns = not significant.

	Male			Female		
Treatment goal	n	Gap (W – N)	p – value	n	Gap (W – N)	p – value
Pain-free	119	0.16	1.000	107	0.77	< 0.001***
No itching	147	0.59	< 0.001***	122	1.04	< 0.001***
No burning	115	0.33	0.229	97	0.92	< 0.001***
Healed skin	152	1.19	< 0.001***	147	1.43	< 0.001***
Better sleep	114	0.46	0.046*	93	0.97	< 0.001***
Less depressed	119	0.31	1.000	102	0.86	< 0.001***
More joy in life	128	0.35	0.183	118	0.97	< 0.001***
No fear of progression	139	0.46	0.071	134	0.99	< 0.001***
Normal daily life	140	0.47	0.006**	125	0.89	< 0.001***
More productive	117	0.35	0.473	103	0.74	< 0.001***
Less burden on family	108	0.19	1.000	99	0.61	0.016*
Normal leisure	125	0.54	0.002**	108	0.81	< 0.001***
Normal work life	99	0.45	0.402	77	0.79	0.001**
More social contacts	105	0.26	1.000	91	0.63	0.010**

Show myself more	118	0.39	0.097	111	0.95	< 0.001***
Less burden in relationship	103	0.29	1.000	88	0.72	0.001**
Normal sex life	98	0.50	0.033*	77	0.71	0.008**
Fewer doctor visits	146	0.64	< 0.001***	140	1.10	< 0.001***
Less treatment time	150	0.50	0.012*	124	0.94	< 0.001***
Lower treatment costs	122	0.21	1.000	104	0.65	0.004**
Fewer side effects	129	0.26	1.000	118	0.81	< 0.001***
Clear diagnosis	154	0.57	< 0.001***	134	0.75	< 0.001***
Trust in therapy	157	0.50	< 0.001***	144	0.80	< 0.001***
Faster improvement	164	0.58	< 0.001***	143	0.85	< 0.001***
Regain control	161	0.70	< 0.001***	145	1.08	< 0.001***